

W^hereas there is an Act now in force, prohibiting several *French* Commodities, which did at first encourage some persons to endeavour the Promotion of the Linnen Manufacture in some parts of this Kingdom, who have to their great loss (the said Act not being made sufficient to keep out French Linnens) brought the said Manufacture to greater perfection than ever it was in *England* before, having so well imitated the French both as to Likeness and Goodness, that the most skilful Linnen Draper seeing a piece of each, shall not know which is French and which is English: And they do by Experience find, that if French Linnens were more strictly prohibited, or a very great Duty laid on them, we should in less than seven years be able to supply our selves and our Plantations with as good Cloath as any comes out of *France*; and to make such quantities will employ at least Sixty Thousand of our Poor, and Thirty Thousand Acres of Ground for Flax and Hemp: In many Counties in *England* they are much to seek for an Employment for their Poor, the Woollen and other Manufactures already established being not sufficient to employ them, nor convenient for many Counties, this Manufacture will employ all sorts who are capable of any manner of Work whatsoever, which will be a means to cleanse our Streets from Beggars, and to take off good part of the Collections for the Poor throughout *England*: It will also be a means much to promote Lands by Planting of Flax and Hemp, having been by experience found that our English Flax is as good and may be afforded as cheap as any in the World: It will be made appear, that Land in many parts of *England* which now is not worth Five Shillings an Acre, with good Management may produce Thirty Shillings an Acre by Planting it with Flax. 'Tis the Importing of French Linnens only hinders the Establishment of this Trade, and no doubt many French Merchants will oppose it, but let them lay aside self Interest, and then 'tis supposed they can say little against it; or let them say what they will, the Promoter hereof will undertake to answer any Objections they shall make, and to give such Reasons for the Promotion of the Trade, that he hopes no English man will be against it.

'Tis humbly prayed, that this Honourable House will take it into Consideration, and do therein what in their great Wisdom shall be thought fit.

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